Avondale Mills Project

Interviewer: Edward Akin

Interviewee: Robert Mulligan

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A: …start these sorts of things is to try to get some idea of your overall life, where you've been, and about your family and that sort of thing. And that'll give me some idea of what to ask, you know, as we get on into it. So, just to start off with, tell me something about where you were born and where you were raised.

M: Well, I was born down here at West Mississippi, and I left from there when my father moved down to Magnolia, Mississippi, and so we grew up down there in Pike County.

A: Okay, what year were you born?

M: Uh, 1903.

A: And so, you and your family farmed? Did your folks…

M: Yes, sir, uh… and he was always a farmer, so I helped him when I was a kid and I went to work with textiles when I was fourteen, then after then, I spent some several years during the Depression—well, 1925 to 1932.

A: There with your folks. Now, did they own their own farm, or were they [share] cropping or something like that?

M: No… no, they paid rent.

A: Uh, how many other children were in your family?

M: My father's family?

A: Yeah.

M: There were eleven.

A: Eleven?! [WHISTLES]

M: Yeah.

A: How many boys and how many girls?

M: Six girls and six boys.

A: And you were what place on the pecking order? Where did you come in, one of the oldest, or one of the youngest…?

M: No, sir, I had three sisters older than me, but I was the oldest boy.

A: And so, I guess a lot of the load for trying to help the family out then fell on you.

M: Yeah, it sure did. I got the handle on it, being the oldest.

A: Now, you said you started textile work when you were fourteen years old. Did you have any chance to get much schooling before you started working with the…

M: Not much, no…

A: Any at all? I mean, how many grades—

M: Oh, I think I went to about the third grade.

A: In country schools, the old one-room schools?

M: Yes. It was in the village. We had a textile mill there for the longest. It was in the village.

A: Now, that was—that Magnolia?

M: Yes, Magnolia.

A: Now, what mill was this?

M: When I went to work in it, it belonged to the Lampton-Reid Company, which you've probably heard much of. Then, it shut down for about four years, and then it sold to another company. I forget now what they did call it, but it was some Jews from New Orleans that bought it.

A: Now, what kind of mill was it? Was it just a yarn mill, or cloth mill?

M: Naw, it made—it made cloth, different types—not too many different types, just plain cloth. Some of it was heavier than other, that's all.

A: Was it a gray mill, or white cloth? Do you recall?

M: It was white cloth, but not a bleacher. They didn't have a bleacher.

A: So it was unbleached cotton.

M: Mm-hmm, unbleached cotton, yes sir.

A: Now, what did you start out doing when you first started working with them?

M: Well, they started you out spinning, but they carried you from there on. And my steady (??) job was doffing, and so I did this spinning—you have to learn that before you learn to doff.

A: Did you ever get in any of those doffing contests I've read about? I know sometimes people would—

M: Naw, we had our own contests there, racing.

A: Yeah, that's what I mean.

M: Yeah, we got plenty of that. That was laid on us, day after day, when we was kids, especially. And they turned out some of the best doffers there in the country, because after then, they began to run around and they found out that they was extra good.

A: Yeah.

M: I think one of the things that caused that: you couldn't quit and they wouldn't fire you because if you done anything they'd report it to your father, or your parents, and you got _____ (??). So you couldn't quit and they wouldn't fire you, so all it was was to get in there and learn it and do it.

A: How did they pay you back then?

M: Oh, I went to work and worked three or four years for twenty-five cents a day, a dollar and a half a week. Five days and a half a week.

A: Fifty-five-hour week?

M: Sir?

A: Fifty-five hours, or?

M: Yes sir, they uh, we worked from Monday morning, 6 o'clock to 12 o'clock Saturday. That's five days and a half.

A: Yeah.

M: And they let you off for forty-five minutes at noon, so that was about eleven hours and fifteen minutes a day.

A: Now, would you usually just go home for lunch and then come back?

M: Yes, yes sir. They had their own ____ (??)

A: How big was the mill?

M: It worked about, uh, the most they ever worked in there when Number One—Number Two—Number One War was going on, they worked about a hundred and sixty/ sixty-five people.

A: Now, you—

M: I mean three hundred and sixty—about three hundred.

A: So it was a one-shift operation at that time?

M: Yes, sir.

A: Well, that's a pretty good size!

M: Sir?

A: That's a pretty good-size mill, for the kind of mills I've been working with.

M: Yes sir. Well, like I said, they had about three hundred and sixty-five employees, but when I went to work there, there was a long time that they couldn't run but one shift, because they didn't have electric lights. They didn't have no lights.

A: How did they get their power at that time? Was it a boiler, or…

M: Yes, sir, a boiler. They run by steams.

A: Was it coal fire?

M: Yes, but fuel, mostly. They hardly ever burned any coal. I don't know what the reason was for burning it back then, but they burnt what they call "hogs". That's chopped-up wood that comes from these saw mills. It was shipped in there.

A: Yeah.

M: And that's what they used.

A: Uh-huh. You said you got paid about a dollar and a quarter a week.

M: A dollar and a half. _____ (??) a day.

A: Did that money go to you, or did it go straight to your father, or how did they—

M: They give it to me, and my orders was to carry it to my father.

A: Okay. Did you get it in script, or in a pay envelope, or how did they…

M: Yes sir, it was in an envelope at that time.

A: Now, I imagine back then, Magnolia was kind of away from the larger places around.

M: Oh, yes, it sure was. Jackson is the nearest—it and Hammond was two of the nearest cities there was close by. Jackson, Mississippi and Hammond, Louisiana.

A: Now thinking about that, did they have a company store?

M: No, sir. Well, they did last, but when I first started, it was years before they had it. The Lamptons owned it for years. When they sold it, then the Jews (??), they had a company store there.

A: Now, if y'all didn't have a company store there at first, how did y'all get things like groceries and other things you needed?

M: Before the company store was there?

A: Yeah.

M: Well, the Lamptons was Christian people and they had one of the biggest stores, and they owned most of Magnolia, so we could get anything we wanted there. They owned the mill.

A: Now, did your folks have to do a lot of credit-buying, just 'til the next payday?

M: Yes, sir.

A: Now, how many of you worked in the mill at that time?

M: Well, uh, at that time, there was five of my sisters. Now, one girl—my first cousin—well, she went as a sister, just so you can (??) hear what I'm talking about. My father raised her from two months old; she was his sister's child. So she went as sister, so there was five of them that worked in the mill—five of the girls and me. The other boys didn't much go to a cotton mill hand 'til along the last… and then they finally got in there, way back in the late '40s.

A: Now, were all of you working in the spinning room or in different departments?

M: No, sir. It was me and one sister that worked in the spinning room and the others worked in the weave shop, the other three.

A: Now back then, was your family a church-going folk or did they—

M: Yes, sir.

A: Baptist, Methodist, or what?

M: They was Baptist.

A: Did Mr. Lampton—is it Lampton or Lampkin?

M: Lampkin.

A: Did Mr. Lampkin provide churches, or what were—

M: Yes, sir, did. He provided anything to help them in their needs.

A: Now, if you can, try to give us some kind of word picture about what your house looked like, what the village housing was like.

M: Well, there was—at that time, I'd call 'em decent houses. They was all well-built. They wasn't no big fine houses, but they was painted and they was kept up, if you can get anything out of that.

A: Now, a family of your size, were y'all in, what, a four-room house, or…

M: Yes, sir, but they was large rooms. We lived outside of the village; it belonged to the village. They bought it on purpose for my father when he went there, just outside the village. It was a large house.

A: Now, speaking of your dad, what job did he have?

M: Well, in fact of business, he was a cotton mill hand hisself of way back. He was a weaver, way back.

A: By that time, was he doing any work in the mill at all? Or what was he—

M: Well, we went there in 1911, and he worked in the mill somewhat—a year and a half or two years, and then he got out and he started back with his farming. He farmed in the first place. After that, he started back.

A: Now, you had said that you started mill work at the age of fourteen and I think you said that first time, you only worked about four years?

M: I said about for twenty-five cents a day, somewhere about three or four years.

A: Okay. And then, did y'all move away from Magnolia?

M: No, sir. After I learnt the spinning, where I was able to doff, I made ten cents an hour—got a three-cent raise there. And I doffed ever since.

A: Yeah. And so you started doffing when you were about eighteen. See, that would've been about 1921, if I'm adding right. Now, did y'all—how much longer did you stay at Magnolia?

M: Uh, we stayed in Magnolia all total fourteen years.

A: Yeah, all at one time?

M: Yes sir, in the same place.

A: Now, did—by then, of course, you would've been grown.

M: Yes, sir.

A: Did you and your family move? By the way, when did you get married?

M: In 1932.

A: And y'all had how many children?

M: Seven.

A: How many boys, how many girls?

M: Two boys and five girls.

A: Now, see, you got married in 1932. Now, that was right in the middle of the Depression.

M: Yeah, it sure was.

A: How did it—could you tell any difference? You know, a lot of people talk about 1929 being the year of the Crash, and then I hear a lot of folks say "we Southern folks couldn't tell any difference, that we were already in a Depression".

M: Yeah, that's right. [CHUCKLES]

A: But, being married at that time, how did it affect you, the Depression?

M: Well, you know my dad farmed. A lot of people didn't have enough to eat, that I knew. And we didn't go lacking for anything like that. My wife's father was the same thing. He was a farmer, and we didn't have no lot of money, but we had plenty to eat and we had a few clothes, nothing much. We made it just fine because of the way I was raised and she was raised. We wasn't used to no luxury.

A: Now, you said Lampkin sold the mill to some Jewish men out of New Orleans. Was there any major change in the mill that you could see, after that takeover?

M: Yes sir. Uh, the War come on—you know the Number One War? And it paid pretty good wages, _____ (??) of what we had ever made. I can't remember now just how much I think we, uh, probably made the—about sixty-five cents an hour.

A: Yeah. Now, when I'm reading and talking with folks about the situation back then, two things that crop up quite a bit are stretch-outs and speed-ups. Did that tend to occur then?

M: Yes sir, that happened in the '30s when the—I'm pretty sure you've heard of J. W. Sanders. He used to own all these mills—just about it and the ones he didn't own, he had weight. So, he was a stretch-out system.

A: Did you get caught in this sort of thing.

M: Yes sir. I sure did, you had people running from one—running from two-man job. In some cases, they'd run a three-man job for the same money.

A: Yeah, from what I could get like, they would put—one person would be responsible for one frame… on spinning. Or, what, on weaving.

M: No sir.

A: No? What would the frames be?

M: well, they had a doffer had anywhere from six to ten frames and his spinner—the spinner and him worked together, you see, but she run the machine to get the filling but he had to take it all off, the doffer. The spinner had the same thing, from ten to twelve frames. The stretch-out system come when

Mr. Sanders bought it. Well, he put six side spinners on twelve sides. Each frame got a side, you know. You know what I'm talking about.

A: So usually, like you were saying earlier, when the stretch-out hit, what had been three workers' jobs now became two workers'.

M: Now anywhere from one, I said, would run a two-man job and, in some cases where it could possibly be handled, he was in three people's place.

A: Whew. That's one of the worst cases I've heard. He must've really stretched 'em out. Now, along with the stretch-out, a lot of the people, or from what I can gather, some of the mill owners would fix it so they always wanted to have some spare hands. So, in addition to the stretch-out, some people would be required just to work four days a week. Did that happen where you worked?

M: Yes, sir. They'd do that in order to keep from hiring anybody else.

A: Yeah, in other words, that spare hand would rotate throughout the week.

M: But, when Mr. Sanders took over, he didn't have a spare hand. He just couldn't pay off that kind of— he called that overhead.

A: [CHUCKLES] So, mmm…. We're still in Magnolia at that time, right?

M: Yes.

A: At what time did you leave Magnolia to go into other kinds of work?

M: My father moved to Amite County, deep in the country. That's between Liberty and Magnolia. You know where Liberty—

A: Yes, yes. I know where Liberty is.

M: Back there over by what they call Amite River.

A: That's down in Jerry Clower Country, isn't it?

M: Sure is! Liberty is his country, his town.

A: And so, did you go with your dad when he moved?

M: Yeah, I worked out there and helped him make a crop and in the wintertime, well, I picked up what I could. Macomb (??) Mill run on; it didn't shut down for a long time, so I worked out there some, but I helped him make a crop and gathered every year, and then I'd get out and get what I could in the winter.

A: And, we're talking about throughout the 1930s, at that time?

M: Let's see, I stayed with him—yeah, I stayed with him 'til I married in '32. I stayed with him from 1925—that was when the Depression, you could first see it coming on. And I stayed with him 'til '32, through the winter, I mean through the crop season.

A: And in '32, you moved back to Magnolia? What happened to the—

M: Yes sir, the mill—Mr. Sanders took over that year and started the mill up, and I went back…

A: How long—how long had the Magnolia Mill been closed?

M: Make no mistake, it was about four years.

A: And so you started back to work at Magnolia in '32.

M: Mm-hmm. Let's see, yeah, I started back the first of '33.

A: Now, other than the stretch-out, had things improved, or stayed about the same? Things like housing…

M: Well—

A: …wages, stuff like that.

M: Well, wages didn't improve much, but at that time, the village had run down, and it never did get back at itself, as far as the housing being decent.

A: Now in 1933, the NRA came in.

M: Yes sir.

A: Uh, did the company pay the wages they were supposed to, under NRA? I think NRA, what, a minimum wage of twelve dollars for a forty-hour week.

M: Uh, let's see, uh, where was, uh, I think that… Let me see. I forget now just what that did open up at. But, you know, it was proved "unconstitution" and President Roosevelt took the second run there. And I think—I can't be real sure, but I think we was making about twenty-five cents an hour under the REA. And then he come back with the change and they raised ten cents—that was thirty-five cents an hour, and boy we thought we was rich.

A: Now, when the NRA started, the work week was reduced to forty hours a week. Did the company add another shift at that time?

M: Yes sir. They sure did.

A: And which shift were you working on?

M: Well, I could work on either shift that I wanted to because I was married and I had a family and I had a little farm. And me and my family truck farmed on that, so I had a superintendent that would let me work on either shift I wanted to. And I mostly worked at night in order to do my work at home.

A: I imagine from what you told me before, you were such a good doffer that he was willing to work out an arrangement with you.

M: Yes, he helped me and my wife all he could, every way he could.

A: So, at that time you were living out on the farm. Or at least farming.

M: No sir—well, I—yes, sir, my little farm then.

A: And about how big was your farm at the time, just truck farming?

M: Yes sir, I was truck farming. It was fifteen acres, one or less; you know how the title breathes (??).

A: Now, was this the first time any of your family had been able to own a farm?

M: Yes sir.

A: And so, now we're in about 1933, 1934. Am I getting the time about right?

M: About the place (??)?

A: The year. We're in about 1934, right?

M: Yes, sir.

A: Now what happened during the rest of the 1930s, with you and your family? Did you continue to work there at Magnolia?

M: Yes sir. I worked there 'til '51.

A: So you saw some big changes then taking place during this time. What about—to take one area, did things like lint and things like safety in the mill, did those sorts of things change during that time period?

M: No. They had very little protection for safety.

A: Talking with other people, they said there'd be huge belts driving the machines. If any of them popped, you better hope you were out?

M: Oh yeah, we had—we had a guy got killed there, they call these large ones Canny (??) belts. Everything in there run by a belt, all the machines. And these large belts that we called them Canny (??) belts. They had buckles to hold them together.

A: Yeah.

M: Well, uh, a guy run the quill machine that pulled this waste off of the quill, and he was out in front of it. So, uh, that belt had broke several times, several times. So, this time when it broke, it hit the top of the ceiling, and it glanced and it went right down and hit him and busted his head.

A: Now, in the year of 1934, there was a national squat in the textile industry.

M: Yes sir.

A: Was there any union activity at your mill?

M: Well, it was, but it was later than that. I don't remember what year it was.

A: 1946 was another big time.

M: Yeah, that was about the time they tried it down there, but Mr. Sanders, like I said a while ago, he owned most of the mills in the state of Mississippi. He owned about eleven or twelve mills. What he didn't own, he had a weight (??). And you couldn't work for him (??), because what he'd do if he had to, he'd shut that mill down if folks didn't want to work, and he'd take the ones that did want to work and scatter them about these other mills, so the union didn't have a chance with him. They couldn't handle him no way.

A: Yeah, now during World War II, I imagine the mill had so many orders that World War II was a good time to be working.

M: Yes sir. It sure was, and along that time, they made some war material.

A: What—what in particular did they make? Do you recall?

M: Well, it was just plain cloth, only it was heavier than usual.

A: What you might call a "duck material"?

M: Yes sir, duck.

A: Or tents and canvas, that sort of thing?

M: Well, I don't think it got as heavy as the regular _____ (??) stuff, but it was heavier than the general cloth back then.

A: What quality of cotton were y'all getting in at that time?

M: Well, uh, short staple. Mostly short staple if that means anything….

A: Yeah. One of the mills I've been working on, the owner said, "Send me shoddy cotton, the cheapest that we can make." [Laughs] So, I think that's one of the areas [where] they tried to cut corners whenever they could.

M: Well, they got—yeah, they did. Some of the cotton was so cheap, you know with the liking of staple, 'til they had to buy some good grade to mix with it to make it run. They sure did.

A: Now once you were married—and by the way, had your wife grown up in the textile village, or was she—

M: She never knew a _____ (??) day's worth of work was nowhere. She stayed at home and raised the children.

A: Did any of your children work in the mill?

M: I had my… two of my sons worked in there a short while in Oklahoma.

A: Yeah. Now, when did—you mentioned Oklahoma and your son had mentioned it earlier. What time did y'all go out there? Or did you ever go out to Oklahoma?

M: We went out there in '54. Yeah, I moved my whole family out there. Our factory had shut down… again.

A: Yeah.

M: …and it never did start back, so I went out there in '54 when ours shut down. And fact of the business, I had three years' sickness. I got disabled to working in '51 and I didn't get to go back to work 'til '54.

A: Was, uh, now you went—when you went out to Oklahoma, was this another textile mill?

M: Yes sir.

A: Could you notice any big difference between the two?

M: Yes, it was worse _____29:43___ (??)

A: Really?!

M: Uh, they run—and our president was just like we are. He was a common guy. I hope you are.

A: Yeah.

M: And he had time to talk to all of his people, and I talked to him lots of times. And they run cotton that's ____30:10__ (??) from California. And this water system don't never—won't ever give it the staple that rain water did, so it was the cheapest cotton I ever run.

A: Now what part of Oklahoma was this?

M: San Springs (??).

A: Where is that near?

M: That's about nine miles—I think it's east of Tulsa. East about nine miles east of Tulsa.

A: About how big a mill was it?

M: There were eleven hundred people.

A: Good size. Three shifts by that time?

M: Yes sir. They treated you real nice there. All it was, it was hard to run because of the cotton.

A: Well now, what about a mill village situation? Did they have a mill village thing?

M: They had just a few houses, not very many.

A: Were you able to get one of those, or did you have to get out in the community?

M: Yes sir. The superintendent got me one. After I worked there a while, he found out I wanted to stay. He went out and got me one, got me cheaper rent.

A: So you went out there in '54. How long did you work at that mill?

M: I worked there about ten years and seven months. What run us away, it run out of business.

A: Now during that period of time, during the 1950s and early 60s, uh, was that mill keeping up with new machinery, or did they just pretty much try to go it with that they had?

M: This mill in Oklahoma?

A: Yeah.

M: It had, uh, some of the oldest machinery—you know, not the first machinery, but it was old. It was way under modern.

A: Now we—getting back to the situation we were talking about the belts pulling the system. What about things like the lint in there and stuff like that? What do you recall about that?

M: Well, you had to inhale lint. You didn't wear a mask. I worked in Texas…

[AKIN MUMBLING SOMETHING TO MULLIGAN]

M: I worked in Texas and that was the worst place I ever worked with lint, because they run a lot of colored stuff. They run several different type stuff: rayon, crayon (??), and cotton, and it was dyed and when you get off the work hour, you was blue all over, so you know how much lint was in there.

A: Now you mentioned the Texas situation. You've moved on me again, I guess. When the Oklahoma mill closed down, did you move then to Texas?

M: Eight months later, yes, I went to McKinney, Texas.

A: Now was that mill owned by the same people as the one in Oklahoma?

M: No sir, no sir. This was an individual mill in Oklahoma, and the one in Texas was a stock mill. It belonged to some Jews.

A: Now, the mill in Oklahoma, who owned that? Do you recall?

M: No sir, I don't remember. It was an old lady that owned it; her and her husband owned it, and he died off and let her have it. I don't remember—the president had told me who it was. He run it for her.

A: Now what was the name of that mill, the Oklahoma.

M: Let's see… I don't know. I think they called it Oklahoma Textile. I don't really—I don't really remember.

A: Now you got to McKenzie and y'all were running, you said dyed cloth.

M: Yes sir.

A: What do they make there?

M: They made denim. They made stretch cloth and, uh, maybe I can't name them all, but they made just about everything heavier than sheet cloth.

A: Yeah. Now so, a lot of that was probably indigo-type dye, wasn't it? The blue… blue stuff you're talking about.

M: Yeah, they had the old dye shop.

A: Now what type of mill situation did they have? Did they have a large village or any village at all?

M: No sir. <u>They must've owned their own (??)</u> village, but they sold that way before I went out here.

A: That's right. Most of those mills sold their villages around 1950, didn't they? I think so.

M: Yes sir.

A: Why do you think they sold?

M: Well, all I know, since—like I first mentioned there about Mr. Sanders. He didn't want no overhead spending.

A: I think you're right. [Laughs] They had outlived their usefulness, from what I can see. Now this—the mill in McKenzie, you went there in '64, '65?

M: Let's see. Dorothy! Dorothy? Come here. She had just got out of school. [TO DOROTHY:] Do you remember what year we went to McKinney? You had just finished school.

Dorothy: It was in the fall of '64.

A: And so you worked there for how long?

M: I left there in ’66.

A: And came back to Mississippi at that time?

M: Yeah, right here in Clinton.

A: You retired at that time?

M: I retired when I was sixty-three, because I took sick and I stayed sick for two years after I came over here.

A: Yeah, now looking back over your work in textile mills, if you had it to do over again, would you?

M: No sir.

A: What—what kind of, uh, problems did you see with the presidents, things like wages. Did the wages ever catch up with what things were costing?

M: I don’t think so. I don’t think they were on a level with each other. I don’t think they ever was, and that’s still holding out, ain’t it?

A: It sure is.

M: [Laughs]

A: I was talking with one lady who was _____ (??) clothing union person, and she was bragging about what good wages they were getting. And I looked at ‘em, I thought, “Man, if that’s the union wage, I’d hate to see the non-union, because it wasn’t too good at all.”

M: Naw. If I might add this, or if you want me to _____ (??) on out. I’ve been here twelve years, and I’ve been in the laundry business and I’ve made more here, per hour, than I ever made in my life working in textiles.

A: That is something. Looking back over the textile situation, I want to put some of the mess on you and see how you react to it. Do you believe there is such a thing as “Brown Lung”?

M: Do what now?

A: Something nowadays they’re calling “Brown Lung.”

M: Yes sir. I know what you talking about. I’ve heard of it.

A: Now, uh, did you notice a lot of people having to slow down or quit at an early age because of lung problems?

M: Yes sir. Well, I didn't know maybe some of them but some of them I did know what was wrong, but some have quit at an early age. Uh, the job that I run all from the time that I got started was doffing, to the time. That was, uh, a doffer don't last—he begins to—most everyone go down twenty-eight, thirty, thirty-five years. It's a young man's job, and I stayed on it 'til '66, from 1914 to 1966.

A: That was another thing I wanted to ask. What about things like, say, a weaver or a spinner who might develop rheumatoid arthritis…

M: Yes sir.

A: What was their usual age to start, you know, not being able to make as much as they did the year before?

M: Well, I guess the average was probably forty-five or fifty, and they get that _____ (??)Now, in Post City, Texas, the mill there and part of that one in Oklahoma was concrete. And that concrete created (??) a lot faster than the wood floor.

A: Yeah. In other words, just the standing and the constant vibrations…

M: Yes. The most I saw that was in Oklahoma. It was in the weave shop. The weave shop there had concrete floors and a lot of them took it pretty early, at least forty, forty-five years early.

A: What about the attitude of mill owners? Now you mentioned a guy at, uh, in Oklahoma seemed like a pretty decent fellow, at least talking to you on a one-on-one basis.

M: Yes sir. He was a nice man.

A: What about others? Did other mill owners just tend to stay away from the mill and look at the bottom line?

M: Yes, more so than stay with it. Now the Lamptons were first-class about that. They'd come to any age that worked for them. And then Mr. Dye was his name in Oklahoma. He stayed inside, I say, more than he did outside. He could do anything in the mill. He had been in the business for a long time.

A: Had he grown up in the mill situation or did he just…

M: I never did talk to him about that, but I'm pretty sure he'd been in it a long time, because when they had a real emergency there that was gon' stop a lot of other machinery like the winders—it shuts down a lot of stuff—well, he'd roll his sleeve up and get the tools and he'd get it started. And a lot of times he'd stop by and help me doff and help the others doff and talk and help them spin. He was a mill man.

A: Let me switch sides here.

[SIDE 1 ENDS]